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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DISTRIBUTION

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: December 18, 1964

SUBJECT : International Conference for Solidarity with Vietnamese People Against U.S. Imperialism and for Peace.

REF : Embassy telegrams 1540, 1673, 1738 to Department.

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SUMMARY

For five days (Nov. 25 to Nov. 29) an alleged 159 delegates from 59 countries or territories and 12 regional or international organizations met in Hanoi in a conference "For Solidarity with the People of Vietnam Against U.S. Imperialist Aggression and for the Defense of Peace." The predominant theme was unity of the world's people in condemning U.S. "aggression" around the world in general and in Vietnam, both North and South, in particular. Repeatedly emphasized was the growing strength and competence of the Southern Liberation troops on one hand, and the increasingly cruel and adventurous tactics of the United States in its attempt to halt the disintegration of its position in Vietnam. Of major concern in this respect were U.S. "provocations" against North Vietnam and in the rest of Indochina. Although the DRV managed to keep the Conference on the track, the spirit of unity was somewhat marred by the introduction of anti-Soviet polemics by some delegates including the Chinese, Japanese, Albanians, several Africans and Latin Americans, and, reportedly, the Lao, Australian, and New Zealand delegates.

Hanoi probably hoped that the Conference and its attendant publicity would be a deterrent factor in case the U.S. was contemplating expansion of the war.

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The Conference

The conference was sponsored by the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Vietnam Peace Committee, and the Vietnam Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. Delegates allegedly came from 12 "International Organizations" (various peace groups and federations for youth, students, journalists, lawyers, etc.) and 59 countries. The USSR sent a delegation headed by Anatoly Sofranov, Vice Chairman of the Soviet Asian-African Solidarity Committee. The Communist Chinese delegation was led by Liu Ning-I, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Peace Committee. Ten other Communist nations were represented: Albania, Poland, Bulgaria, East Germany, Cuba, Hungary, Mongolia, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and North Korea. Delegations from the NLHX in Laos, from Thailand, Japan, and Indonesia also participated. So Nem, Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly, led the Cambodian delegation. There were about 23 delegations from Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. Also present were American personalities (Anna Louise Strong, Robert Williams, and Sidney Rittenburg), and delegates of Britain (including a representative of Bertrand Russell), France, and Canada.

Speaker after speaker declared his support for the "just struggle" of the Vietnamese people and condemned aggressive actions by the U.S., both in Vietnam and around the world. The Soviet Union and the Chinese Communists announced contributions of unspecified medical and material help for flood victims in the South. The Soviets announced that "they who nurture adventurous plans on the Indochinese peninsula must understand that the Soviet Union cannot remain indifferent to the fate of a fraternal Socialist country and is prepared to give it necessary help." The Chinese declared that "aggression by the United States against the DRV means aggression against China and that the Chinese people will definitely not sit idly by... The Chinese people will always unite with their brotherly Vietnamese people and fight together with them." A number of other delegates announced that societies for solidarity with the Front would be set up in their countries, and that the anniversary of the founding of the Front on December 20 would be celebrated. The Soviets invited a Front delegation to Moscow to help celebrate the Front anniversary there. The Cuban delegate offered volunteers for the struggle in the South.

The final resolutions, a resolution on Vietnam, a Letter to the South Vietnamese People, an Appeal to the American People, and a Resolution on the Support for the Struggle of the World Peoples against Imperialism and Colonialism, were unremarkable documents which followed the lines of speeches made during the conference.

North Vietnamese Report

The North Vietnamese report explained at length how "the U.S. Imperialists have been sabotaging the whole 1954 Geneva Agreements, are continuing to step up their aggressive war in South Vietnam, intensifying provocations and sabotage [illegible] against DRV, seeking to expand the war, and to the same time [illegible]

to "consolidate and strengthen fraternal solidarity within the Socialist camp." The accomplishments of the DRV under a socialist regime were lauded, as well as the accomplishments of the NFLSV, both military and political. The DRV delegate spoke of growing NFLSV influence in the cities of South Vietnam, claiming that recent urban disturbances there were a result of NFLSV efforts. The DRV delegate warned the U.S. that an attack against the North would be "suicidal."

Of particular interest were references to DRV support for the Southern liberation movement (with the emphasis on justification of such a course of action). The DRV claimed that the struggle in the South "enjoys the assistance of the North," as well as the sympathy and support of the world's people. "We also think that to defend peace in the North with a view to peaceful reunification of Vietnam, and to defend peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia, it is necessary to actively support the patriotic struggle of our compatriots in South Vietnam. Vietnam is one, the Vietnamese people are one.... Our support for our Southern kith-and-kin is quite legitimate. ....Where there is oppression there is struggle against oppression, no question of either interference or instigation." The DRV added carefully, however, that this struggle is carried out "by the South Vietnamese people themselves."

The NFLSV Report

The NFLSV Report presented at the next session covered much of the same ground as the DRV report. Primary emphasis was given to U.S. and Front activities in the South. The Front report claimed kinship with other liberation movements and wished them well. Gratitude was expressed for "political and material support from various parts of the world." The Front claimed that "many countries and international organizations have offered to take charge of our students and wounded soldiers. In many countries youths have volunteered to come and fight under the banner of the NFLSV." Special mention was given to Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, Japan, Red China, and the USSR. The Front thanked North Vietnam for its support and promised that the North and South "will stand together as one if the U.S. attacks the North." The ultimate unification of the country was a recurrent theme.

Sino-Soviet Polemics

The image of a solid world-wide movement behind the Vietnamese was somewhat marred when the Sino-Soviet ideological dispute crept into some of the speeches. It appears, however, that the DRV was able for the most part to keep the conference on the track and accounts of the final sessions and resultant documents do not reflect the dispute.

Peking NCNA reported several delegates' opposition to "the efforts of some people to create illusion among people by advocating peaceful coexistence."

the Vietnamese people, while eagerly seeking so-called 'international cooperation' with U.S. imperialism and advocating 'peaceful coexistance.' "

However, the Peking NCNA coverage of the final session of the conference and of the resolutions followed the lines of the DRV announcements and did not mention the ideological dispute.

The Soviet delegate stated inter alia that the policy of the Soviet Union is to "affirm the principles of peaceful coexistence and save mankind from world war." He asserted that the strongest weapon of the anti-imperialist forces is "solidarity, solidarity, and more solidarity."

[redacted]

[redacted] reports at some length on Sino-Soviet rivalry at the conference. On balance [redacted] believes that without sacrificing the present ideological commitment to Peiping or further alienating Moscow, the Vietnamese succeeded in exploiting the conference almost exclusively to their own advantage. He reported that despite their cautious partiality to China, the Vietnamese were successful in striking a balance, if not neutralizing the two factions, by skillful management of the proceedings and, reportedly, considerable bargaining behind the scenes. [redacted] reported that the Chinese view was propounded in a majority of the speeches and appeared to be carrying a responsive conference. The Chinese speech and speeches by delegates of Albania, Laos, the U.S., Australia, and New Zealand bitterly criticized the concept of peaceful coexistence and commended the Chinese bomb and Peiping's proposal for a summit conference on disarmament. (Incomplete accounts available to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon of the New Zealand, Australian, and Lao speeches do not contain violent anti-Soviet criticism and we cannot, therefore, confirm [redacted] statement.

[redacted] The Soviet point of view was presented with less force by delegates of the bloc [redacted] The French delegate made perhaps the most spirited contribution in favor of the Soviet point of view. [redacted] reported that, according to some bloc representatives (he does not specify which), there was considerable pro-Soviet lobbying behind the scenes.

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For the Ambassador:

Melvin L. Manfull
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

SECRET

Department of State FORM DS-4 (7-3-)

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

CLASSIFICATION XXXXXXXXXXXXX

DATE December 9, 1964

TO Department of State (PPT)

For the Attention of Passport Office

FROM Amconsul Zurich

EXCISE

TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE	TO THE DEPARTMENT
☐ For Transmittal to Addressee at the Discretion of Post	☒ Dept. Information Only
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REFERENCE

DEC 2 1964

ITEMS/REMARKS

The Passport Office might be interested in the fact that Mrs. Strong, presumably with an American passport, has been travelling in Red China. Mrs. Strong was born Nov. 24, 1885 and on June 25, 1958, was issued a regular passport number 1148149.

A copy of Amconsul Zurich's OM to Department (SCS) is attached.

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IN REPLY REFER TO FILE NUMBER AND DRAFTING OFFICE

FILE NO.	SIGNATURE James Lucas
CLASSIFICATION XXXXXXXXXXXX	OFFICE Vice Consul- Zurich

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OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: Department of State (SCS) DATE: December 9, 1964

FROM: Amconsul ZURICH

SUBJECT: FEDERAL AGENCIES (SSA) - Anna L. Strong, 103-18-0837

REF: Department's CH this Subject dated November 17, 1964

Per your request, the reporting officer contacted [redacted] B1A9
[redacted] which Mrs. Strong uses as a mailing address. [redacted] B1A9
said that Mrs. Strong is an author of some repute whose books on Red China and the Far East have been translated into German. B1A9

He said that her mail had been forwarded to Australia, Laos and Red China, among other places in the Far East; but as he had not paid attention to the return addresses on the envelopes, he did not know whether any Treasury Checks had been forwarded to Mrs. Strong in Red China. [redacted] also B1A9 stated that he did not know Mrs. Strong's present address, having not heard from her in over a month; and that he could not state how long she had remained at any of the other addresses which she had given since no record of these forwarding addresses was kept by his firm.

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